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MAYOR GIBSON APPOINTS HEALTH & WELFARE, PUBLIC WORKS HEADS

Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson has asked the Newark Municipal Council to confirm his appointments of Douglas Morgan as director of health and welfare and Vincent Toma as director of public works.

The appointments are the first to be made by Gibson in his third term as Mayor, which began today (July 1).

Morgan has been serving as a legislative assistant to the Mayor, and has specialized in health programs since joining city government in 1971. Toma, a city employe for 26 years, has been acting director of public works since May.

In making the appointments, the Mayor said: "Two of the highest priorities of my third administration will be improvements in health care and in the physical appearance of our city. Doug Morgan and Vince Toma have the knowledge and enthusiasm that will help us make significant gains toward these two goals.

"These men have very different backgrounds, but both of them have demonstrated the kind of attention to detail and the kind of sensitivity to people's needs that I hope will become hallmarks of our new administration."

Morgan said he welcomes the opportunity, "and I know it's going to be a challenge." He added: "We want to take a good hard look at everything the department does and see if it can be improved."

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Toma said he also welcomes the challenges of his new job. "The priorities under the Mayor's mandate are to clean the city, and to see that employees give a fair day's work for a day's pay. We're making headway on these problems."

The two departments are among the busiest and biggest in municipal government. Health and Welfare includes Divisions of Health, Welfare and Inspections, with a total of 511 employees. Its 1978 budget is \$12 million. Public Works, with 842 employees and a budget of \$25 million, includes the Divisions of Motors, Public Property, Sewers, Sanitation, Streets and Sidewalks, and Traffic and Signals.

Morgan, 28, replaces Carl W. Wilson, who has been acting director of health and welfare since the resignation of Dr. John Waller last February. Wilson returns to his former position as director of health planning.

Toma became acting head of public works May 10 upon the retirement of Samuel Priscia, who had been a city employe for 48 years.

The two departments are the only ones that have been headed by acting directors. The directors of the other seven municipal departments will continue to serve in the Mayor's new administration as hold-overs.

Morgan joined the Mayor's staff as an administrative aide in 1971, and worked on several health services, housing and drug treatment projects. He has been Gibson's legislative assistant since August 1976. He is a graduate of Shabazz High School and Rutgers University, and has a master's degree in public administration from New York University.

Toma joined the Public Works Department in 1952, and has held various supervisory positions since 1963. He was in charge of building construction from 1969 to 1976, when he became ~~manager~~ of public property. He also had his own construction and engineering firms from 1960 to 1977. He is a graduate of Central H.gh School and attended Rutgers University.

